Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana Benefits for Cashew Exports

1. SHRI C. PERUMAL Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cashew Export Promotion Council has requested to allow Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana benefits for cashew exports without imposing and restriction from April, 2004; and

(b) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana is intended to promote the exports of specified agricultural commodities and thereby give a boost to the domestic agricultural sector. Export quality cashew is primarily imported into the country and after value addition is re-exported. The Govt. has therefore not agreed to the request of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India.

FDI in Retail Sector

2. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to allow FDI in the retail sector in the country.

(b) the details of investment made by the domestic private sector in the retail industry in the last two years;

(c) whether Government have assessed the impact of this capital investment by the private sector in the retail market in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is considering to bring about changes in various existing laws such as land acquisition etc. for facilitating faster growth of the retail sector in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (f) The extant policy does not permit Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail sector. The FDI